



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor  
Bret D. Marsh, DVM, State Veterinarian

## INDIANA STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

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Office of the State Veterinarian  
805 Beachway Drive, Suite 50  
Indianapolis, IN 46224-7785  
Phone: 317/227-0300  
Fax: 317/227-0330

To: County Emergency Management Agency Directors  
Cc: Local Health Departments, Purdue Extension Service Educators

From: Marianne Ash, DVM, BOAH Biosecurity and Preparedness Planner

Date: 28 April 2006

RE: Emergency planning for an avian influenza event

With so much discussion at all levels about planning for pandemic flu and/or an avian influenza event, I want to provide some information directly to you, as local emergency planners, so you are aware of plans in place and underway at the state level.

First, I want to point out a few key facts that you probably already know, but need to be reiterated:

1. Avian influenza (also known as bird flu) is *not* the pandemic flu. Many scientists predict that a particular strain of avian influenza (or AI) known as H5N1 has the potential to mutate into a form that could spread easily from human to human, thereby creating opportunity for a pandemic. While that may not happen, we need to continue to develop our plans.
2. A report of H5N1 (or any other strain of AI) does not signal a pandemic.
3. U.S. commercial poultry is produced and inspected to the highest standards in the world. AI does not present a significant risk to the safety of our poultry and egg supply in this country.

We at the State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) have been very concerned with avian influenza—and other poultry diseases—affecting one of the strongest agricultural sectors in our state. That's why we have been working actively with the Indiana State Poultry Association (ISPA) since 1985 to maintain an industry-wide disease response plan. Known as the Emergency Poultry Disease Plan, the EPDP meets the standards for governmental planning while addressing the needs of local producers.

Many Indiana counties have one or more large-scale commercial poultry houses. Commercial operations, both large and small, are included in the EPDP. The companies have come together to form three regional committees to share ideas and support each other with response planning within the industry.

We've asked those companies to contact the local EMA in each county in which they operate to exchange contact information and discuss any needs or concerns for local planning support.

I have enclosed a copy of the EPDP, so you can become familiar with the planning efforts that are underway at the state level. If you have questions about the document or what it entails, please contact me (phone: 317/227-0347; email: [mash@boah.in.gov](mailto:mash@boah.in.gov)) or Paul Brennan of ISPA (phone: 765-494-8517; email: [pbrennan@purdue.edu](mailto:pbrennan@purdue.edu)).

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